

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 30564 01 OF 03 181812Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----088164 181827Z /45
O 181838Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0486

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 30564

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP: SCHEDULE

REF: (A) STATE 248157; (B) PARIS 29806; (C) PARIS
28403

1. WHILE REF DEPTTEL REFLECTS PROGRESS IN WORKING TOWARD A VIABLE AND ATTRACTIVE SCHEDULE, I REMAIN CONCERNED THAT WE ARE NOT YET OBTAINING ANY FRENCH INPUT, OTHER THAN THAT MADE BY PRESIDENT GISCARD HIMSELF TO NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI. IN EXCHANGES OF TELEGRAMS WITH DEPARTMENT OVER LAST TEN DAYS, IT IS APPARENT OUR SCHEDULE IDEAS HAVE EVOLVED SOME DISTANCE AWAY FROM THOSE OF THE HOST, PRESIDENT GISCARD. WHILE REFTTEL A REFLECTS PROGRESS IN REFINING OUR SCHEDULE IDEAS, I REMAIN CONCERNED THAT WE ARE NOT YET OBTAINING FURTHER ELYSEE INPUT. IN FACT IN ENCOUNTER BETWEEN FRANCOIS-PONCET AND DCM TODAY, FORMER MADE POINT OF ASKING WHEN ELYSEE WOULD RECEIVE RESPONSE FROM NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI TO SCHEDULE IDEAS VOICED BY GISCARD IN MY PRESENCE ON SEPTEMBER 26 (REFTTEL C). AS I POINTED OUT IN REFTTEL B, I NEED INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPOND OFFICIALLY FROM BRZEZINSKI TO GISCARD'S IDEAS
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PAGE 02 PARIS 30564 01 OF 03 181812Z

THERE ADVANCED.

2. TO ANSWER DEPTTEL 248257 QUESTIONS IN SEQUENCE:

(A) EMBASSY CONSIDERS PRESS CLUB MOST APPROPRIATE HOST ORGANIZATION AND FORUM FOR PRESIDENT'S EUROPE SPEECH, ENSURING MAXIMUM MEDIA COVERAGSOM WE RECOMMEND

JOINT SPONSORSHIP BY THE TWO MAJOR PRESS ASSOCIATIONS
IN PARIS: THE FRENCH DIPLOMATIC PRESS ASSOCIATION AND
THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION OF PARIS.

FRENCH DIPLOMATIC PRESS ASSOCIATION IS
PRESTIGIOUS GROUP COMPOSED OF SOME 100 FRENCH JOURNA-
LISTS SPECIALIZING IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. FOREIGN MINISTER
DE GUIRINGAUD IS ASSOCIATION'S HONORARY PRESIDENT.
VISITING CHIEFS OF STATE, INCLUDING PRESIDENT KENNEDY
IN 1961, HAVE FREQUENTLY ADDRESSED THE GROUP.

ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION HAS 70-
YEAR HISTORY AND COMPRISES OVER 100 ACTIVE MEMBERS OF
AMERICAN AND BRITISH PRESS BASED IN PARIS. BY TRADITION
AMERICAN AND BRITISH AMBASSADORS SHARE HONORARY
PRESIDENCY OF ASSOCIATION.

UNLIKE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB IN WASHINGTON,
NEITHER OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAS ITS OWN PREMISES FOR
LUNCHEONS, CONFERENCES, ETC. INSTEAD THEY HIRE SPACE
AT VARIOUS HALLS, HOTELS OR ELSEWHERE, DEPENDING ON
NATURE OF EVENT SPONSORED. FORPRESIDENT'S SPEECH
FLEXIBLE 300 TO 2000-SEAT AUDITORIUM AT PALAIS DE
CHAILLOT WOULD BE HIGHLY SUITABLE LOCATION ABLE TO
ACCOMMODATE ACCOMPANYING NEWSMEN AND OTHER INVITED
GUESTS. ALTERNATIVELY IT COULD BE USED FOR LUNCHEON
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PAGE 03 PARIS 30564 01 OF 03 181812Z

FOR PRESS ASSOCIATIONS TO PRECEDE SPEECH. IT WAS AT
PALAIS DE CHAILLOT THAT UN CONFERENCE DEVELOPED UN
CHARTER OF RIGHTS OF MAN IN 1948 AT MEETING ATTENDED BY
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HEADING US DEL. THIS CONNECTION WOULD
BE SEIZED ON BY PRESS COVERAGE IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT'S
OWN ASSOCIATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESIDENT KENNEDY
IN 1961 ALSO MADE A SPEECH BEFORE A COMBINED PRESS
ASSOCIATIONS MEETING.

(B) EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT OMISSION OF WALK DOWN

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PAGE 01 PARIS 30564 02 OF 03 181818Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 30564

EXDIS

(OR UP) CHAMPS ELYSEES ACCEPTABLE BUT RECOMMENDS WE HAVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESIDENT, PREFERABLY IN COMPANY WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD, TO "WORK THE SIDELINES" WITH FRENCH POPULACE IN SAME FASHION EFFECTIVELY DONE IN NORTH OF ENGLAND LAST MAY IN PRESENCE OF PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN. THIS TYPE OF DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC IS ALSO OF DIRECT INTEREST TO GISCARD AND SOME SUCH EVENT WE THINK WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MEET OUR JOINT OBJECTIVES FOR THE VISIT OF TWO LEADERS DURING NOVEMBER 30.

(C) WE BELIEVE VISIT TO THE INVALIDES IS UNWISE. TO ASSOCIATE US PRESIDENT WITH NAPOLEON, AND THE FRENCH IMPERIAL PERIOD TOGETHER WITH FACT THAT THIS ESSENTIALLY TOURIST ATTRACTION IS NOT A USUAL SITE FOR VISITS BY FOREIGN LEADERS WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY CONTROVERSIAL TO WEIGH AGAINST THE POSITIVE ELEMENTS WE ALL WISH TO SEE FLOW FROM THE VISIT. (HASTY RESEARCH TURNS UP PRECEDENT VISIT TO INVALIDES BY HITLER IN 1940, AND HITLER'S RETURN TO IT OF REMAINS OF L'AIGLON, NAPOLEON'S ONLY LEGITIMATE SON). WE BELIEVE THAT PUBLIC EVENT USEFUL TO GISCARD AS WELL AS INDISPENSABLE TO FRENCH TRADITION IS BRIEF STOP AT ARC DE TRIOMPHE, PROPOSED BY GISCARD, TO DEPOSIT WREATH ON TOMB OF WORLD WAR I UNKNOWN SOLDIER AND RELIGHT (I.E., TURN UP CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 30564 02 OF 03 181818Z

THE GAS TO MAKE VISIBLE) THE ETERNAL FLAME. THIS, IF DESIRED, COULD ALSO PROVIDE CAREFULLY CONTROLLED OPPORTUNITY FOR CROWD CONTACT BY TWO LEADERS.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER HISTORIC SITES IN AND AROUND PARIS BUT NONE WITH BETTER OR MORE PHOTOGENIC ASPECTS THAN ARC DE TRIOMPHE. IN ORDER TO STRESS USG AND PRESIDENTIAL INTEREST IN BASIC ENERGY RESEARCH PARTICULARLY NUCLEAR FISSION AND FUSION, WE ARE LOOKING

INTO POSSIBILITY OF VISIT TO FRENCH NUCLEAR RESEARCH
CENTER AT FONTENAY AU ROSE, IN NEARER SUBURBS
(25 MINUTES SW OF PARIS BY CAR). OTHER SITE WITH
IMMENSE CONNOTATIONS FOR FRENCH -- AND
AMERICANS -- IS CHATEAU OF VERSAILLES, WHERE FRENCH
HAVE INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR LARGE, BUT INFORMAL,
DINNER PARTY IN PRESIDENT'S HONOR.

(D) TIME SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE HELD FOR CALL
AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE BY MITTERRAND IF HE REQUESTS
IT AND FOR SHORT CALL BY OECD SYG VAN LENNEP,
ESCORTED BY AMBASSADOR SALZMAN.

(E) BELIEVE WE CAN FEND OFF ANY VISIT TO HOTEL
DE VILLE WITHOUT SERIOUS COMPLICATION:
PRESIDENT TITO DID NOT GO THERE. PRESIDENT GISCARD HAS
ASSURED AMBASSADOR AND BRZEZINSKI THAT HE WILL ARRANGE
OPPORTUNITY FOR MAJORITY LEADERS TO MEET PRESIDENT.
CHIRAC WILL DOUBTLESS FOLLOW HIS RECENT PRACTICE OF
DECLINING GISCARD'S INVITATION AS HE DID LATTER'S
PARTY FOR TITO, BUT THAT IS HIS CHOICE.

(F) DEMOCRATS ABROAD WILL MAKE EXCELLENT ADDITION
TO MRS. CARTER'S SCHEDULE WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT OF
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PAGE 03 PARIS 30564 02 OF 03 181818Z

SEPARATE AND LATER TELEGRAM.

3. REGARDING LARGE DINNER AT VERSAILLES OR ELYSEE, WE
BELIEVE FRENCH WILL BE RELUCTANT TO CHANGE VENUE TO

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PAGE 01 PARIS 30564 03 OF 03 181822Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 30564

EXDIS

ELYSEE WHICH HAS LIMITED SPACE NOT MUCH LARGER THAN WHITE HOUSE. ASSUMING 100-120 COVERS FOR DINNER, INCLUSION OF SPOUSES, AND REQUIREMENT FOR UNKNOWN NUMBER OF US PRESIDENTIAL PARTY, SPACE CONSTRAINTS ON GISCARD WILL HANDICAP HIM IN SEEKING MAXIMUM EXPLOITATION OF PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO ENHANCE HIS OWN IMAGE. FOR FRENCH CHIEF OF STATE TO HOST PARTY ELSEWHERE IN PARIS THAN HIS OWN RESIDENCE IS RARE. VERSAILLES IS CLOSEST (20 MINUTES) MAJOR FRENCH HISTORIC MONUMENT FOR LARGE EVENTS. IMAGE OF VERSAILLES IN FRENCH AND EUROPEAN MINDS IS NOT LINKED TO ANCIEN REGIME OF LOUIS XIV AND HIS TWO SUCCESSORS BUT RATHER TO GLORIES OF FRENCH CULTURE WHICH WAS THE MODEL AND INSPIRATION FOR EUROPE IN LATE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES AND OF WORLD WAR I "LAFAYETTE WE ARE HERE" MOTIF. US EFFORTS WORTHY OF NOTE IN POST-WORLD WAR I PERIOD MADE POSSIBLE PRESERVATION OF THIS SPLENDID EDIFICE.

4. INSERTION OF ARC DE TRIOMPHE OR OTHER HISTORIC MONUMENT VISIT IN SCHEDULE, WE BELIEVE, REMAINS BEST DONE AFTER INITIAL MORNING 2-1/1 HOUR MEETING WITH GISCARD, PRIOR TO LATTER'S MUCH DESIRED SMALL LUNCHEON. IF PALAIS DE CHAILLOT IS ACCEPTED AND FEASIBLE AS LOCUS FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH IN AFTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PARIS 30564 03 OF 03 181822Z

LUNCHEON CONTEXT, THIS WOULD BE OPPORTUNITY FOR PHOTOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENT ON CHAILLOT TERRACE WITH EIFEL TOWER LOOMING IN BACKGROUND, AND, IF DESIRED, HANDSHAKING AND CROWD MINGLING AT THAT TIME.
HARTMAN

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